station is distributing bee colonies of exotic species in the limited number found superior to Indian species and also imparting training to beekeepers.

(d) During 1995-96, the State will continue to receive assistance for the above mentioned activities including applied research, publicity etc. based on the progress achieved.

Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities

4891. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities of the country had been organised at New Delhi in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it was emphasised in the Conference to adopt villages for all round development of the country;

(d) whether it was also emphasised to increase the growth of food-grains extensively to meet the future rising demand; and

(e) if so, the details of steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference was held on 17-18th April, 1995. Vice-Chancellors of 27 State Agricultural Universities, one Central Agricultural University and Directors of four Deemed Universities of I.C.A.R. participated in the meeting.

(c) While discussing an agenda item on Technology Assessment and Refinement, a suggestion to adopt a village by State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes for developing it as a modle village with the introduction of available package of technologies did come up during the deliberations.

(d) and (e) The President, ICAR in his inauguaral speech exmphasised the need to increase the growth of food grains extensively to meet the future rising demand of food grains. The research being carried out by various agricultural universities and ICAR Institutes is geared toward increasing production and productivity of food grains.

Progoress in R and D for Boosting Agriculture

4892. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE: be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has made the required progress in regard to research and development work for the purpose of boosting the agricultural production;

(b) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has suggested to invest atleast one per cent of agricultural gross domestic production on research and analysis;

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the total percentage of agricultural gross domestic production being spent on the research and development work on agriculture at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Committee on Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) (Sept. 1993) has recommended that the "outlay for agricultural research should be targetted to reach a graded level of one percent of total agricultural Gross Domestic Production, if there is to be any meaningful achievement in the Country's research".

(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in its inter-action with the Planning Commission has been emphasising this point.